

March 31
1932

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'
MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"If we would only be humble, if we would only be prayerful, if we would only live in such a way that each hour of our lives we could truthfully say 'Father in heaven, I am willing and anxious to do what Thou wouldst have me do,' our lives every day would be enriched as we go through this earth experience."—GEORGE ALBERT SMITH.

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Price One Penny

PRAYING A MISSION INTO EXISTENCE

PRESIDENT ARTHUR GAETH, CZECHOSLOVAK MISSION

THE name of Sister Frantiska Brodil, who passed into the Great Beyond November 26th, 1931, will go into the records of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as one of its outstanding women, a woman who prayed a mission into existence. President John A. Widtsoe wrote to us when he heard of her death: "Sister Brodil was a really marvelous woman. Her story must be preserved in Church history."

I shall never forget the first morning I came to Prague and met her. There seemed to be tears of joy in her eyes as she greeted me. That very noon she and her two daughters invited three of us to dinner. Her wonderful spirit of hospitality continued even until her death. There was nothing she would not do for a missionary.

In those first trying days when I was alone in Prague, she would visit places with me and show me about the town. Almost every day I would spend several hours in her company. I learned many interesting things concerning the country from her, for she was well-read and had a keen political sense. I began to feel the sweetness of her spirit and her great love for the Gospel. There was nothing which she would not do to see it reach some of her countrymen.

For nearly six months we met in her home every Sunday morning to hold a short meeting and partake of the Sacrament. Whenever we came to that little home we were always under the influ-

ence of that same sweet spirit. The Spirit of God was present in her home.

As our work began to grow her joy increased. We organized a Sunday School and she began to teach a class. She would help us with our Czech. Her two daughters translated our first tracts with "Mamousek" helping them to obtain the proper Gospel terminology, for we even had to create that when we first began. Correction work on the translation of the Book of Mormon was begun by the two Brodil sisters, but "Mamousek" was always there to help and assist. She gathered about her a group of humble friends who felt the influence of the Gospel through her and they began the Relief Society work in the Czechoslovak Mission.

Just a year ago she returned to the communities in which her ancestors had lived and there gathered hundreds of names for which she had hoped to have Temple work done. She was preparing for her dead and gathered as much information about them as she could.

Our "Mamousek" was a pioneer. She spent much of her life pioneering for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. One day she related to me the following story of her life. It was very interesting, and as she told it to me, I give it here. She said :

"I was born on the 12th of January, 1881, the daughter of a miller, in a typical rural village of Southern Bohemia, and was blessed with a religious mother who had the disposition of an angel. My father, on the other hand, though very intelligent, was a licentious, carefree, brutal type of man, causing my mother untold sorrow and tribulation. She bore trials and grief that we could not comprehend. Only the older children knew, and later imparted it to us, that she had often been on the verge of ending her life, but her faith in God and the thought of us ten children prevented such an act. We loved and worshipped her. She was surrounded by all of us as she bid farewell, previous to her passing to the great beyond. Mother was laid to rest in the village cemetery. We were the entire joy of her life, and to her do we give credit that we are all living straight-forward and honest lives. Father's negligence, on the other hand, ruined him, being forced to sell the mill. He died in poverty, alone and broken.

"At the age of eighteen, shortly after mother's death, I went to Vienna to live with my older sister. It was there that I first learned what a heaven home can be. In Vienna, I soon became acquainted with my future husband, and married him in February, 1904.

"From early childhood I had been blessed with religious inclinations. As the priest read Bible passages and delivered his sermons, I learned the passages by heart, and could tell, almost verbatim, what the sermons contained. After going to Vienna,

I began to read the Bible, and found many interesting things therein, but also some that caused me to wonder.

“From the lives of many of the supposed representatives of Jesus Christ with whom I was acquainted, I could perceive that there was a difference between Christ's teachings and their interpretations. They were using the teachings as a sham to carry out their own evil designs. These things disturbed me, and I began to wonder if God actually existed; and if so, where were His Prophets. The responsibility of my children deepened this feeling; but the Lord willed that I should not be kept in ignorance much longer.

“A young man who came to the door one day offered me a little pamphlet, which I was reticent in receiving. Reading it with some misgiving, I soon found its message wholesome. When the missionary returned with a second tract, I began to read with deeper interest. This brought the young man and his companion to my home repeatedly. I soon discovered a large difference between the work of God and that of man. I received the answer to my question: Is there a Prophet of God upon the earth? Missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were quenching the thirst for truth of another soul. After visiting the meetings in Vienna, I soon became a member, being baptized by Brother K. H. Bennion on September 29th, 1913.

“My heart swelled with a feeling of satisfaction, and at my confirmation I felt myself filled with a new power. The next few months were indeed happy ones; then it seemed as if a wet, dark blanket had been placed over the entire affair. The World War broke out; the missionaries were called home, and all the brethren went to war, a handful of sisters remaining in Vienna, conducting meetings. With Bible classes held regularly, we tried to do our part, but those were trying times. The last two years of the war were so horrible that we almost died from starvation. Bread, potatoes, and a few vegetables were doled out to us, but never was there enough for a healthy meal. We managed to live through it; but were mere skeletons compared with what we were upon entering the war. Then followed an upheaval of governments and revolution, resulting in the organization of the Czechoslovak State. All those of Czech nativity in the Austrian governmental positions were thrown out of work, and my husband soon found himself without employment.

“The Czech government promised to transport all these people to their confines and give them work, but several months passed before anything happened. My husband, a musician and an official, was of a very temperamental nature, and the worry of finding means wherewith to provide for his family caused him much suffering. At the time of our removal to Pragne, Czechoslovakia, he passed away, leaving me alone with my two children. He had not received the Gospel, although he was always friendly

toward the Church. I have great hopes that salvation will come to him on the other side.

"The next few years were indeed trying. I was alone in Prague, with no friends and two children of school age. My brother in South America sent me the money that enabled me to send my children through school. Several years passed, and though we heard little of the Church, we continued to live according to its teachings. Finally, we were visited by President Serge F. Ballif and Brother Niederhanser of the Vienna Branch; and on June 3rd, 1921, my two daughters, Franziska and Jana, were baptized in the Vltava (Moldau), thus becoming the first two members to be baptized on Czech soil. These brethren brought encouragement, saying that they would soon send us missionaries, but none came for several years.

"When President Fred Tadge came to preside over the German-Austrian Mission, with headquarters in Dresden, visits to Prague were more frequent. The missionaries stopped off there to see us on their way from Dresden to Vienna. Then I became seriously ill. Brother Sheets was called from Vienna to administer to me, but my illness continued. Later, Brother Jean Wunderlich came from Dresden and gave me a blessing, in which I was promised that I would get well, for there was yet a great work for me to accomplish upon this earth. I soon recovered.

"With the release of President Tadge in 1926, we thought that something would be done through the Church headquarters; but after many months had passed Apostle James E. Talmage and President and Sister Valentine visited us. They held a wonderful meeting with us, during which the subject of missionaries was discussed; but the time was not yet ripe.

"In February, 1928, Brother Beisinger, eighty-four years of age, was sent to Prague. He interviewed the officials and learned that no difficulties would be placed in the path of the missionaries if they desired to come. The constitution allows absolute religious freedom. Two and a half months later he was released to return home, but no one was sent to take his place. That was our darkest hour, knowing as we did that missionaries were privileged to come, yet none came.

"Then I received the thought to write to the First Presidency. We wrote a letter and enclosed it with one to Brother Jean Wunderlich, asking him to translate it into English. From him I soon received word that he had done so, with the encouragement that work in South America had been opened in somewhat the same manner, a plea for missionaries having been sent by some of the members there.

"We soon received word from President Widtsoe, in which he asked for definite information concerning conditions in the country. We wrote to and received frequent letters from President Widtsoe until word came that missionaries would be with

us the following summer. We were inclined to doubt; but when Brother Arthur Hasler, President of the Vienna District, returned from the Priesthood Centennial of the German-Austrian Mission, held at Leipzig in May, 1929, he stopped in Prague and brought us the joyful news that Brother Arthur Gaeth had been appointed, by President Widtsoe, to start investigations for the immediate opening of the Czechoslovak Mission.

"Brother Gaeth came two days later, fulfilling this hope, although it was hard to believe our eyes. President Widtsoe was also soon in our midst. Five missionaries came from the Swiss-German and German-Austrian Missions. On July 24th, 1929, the pioneer work in Czechoslovakia was performed and this country became a mission of the Church.

"Few people can realize the joy we experienced, we had been praying years for this day. There are thousands of our countrymen who are waiting for the Gospel. It is our prayer that the Lord will help our brethren to learn the language so that they can impart the message to them. We thank the Lord from the bottom of our hearts for His bounteous blessings."

Sister Brodil has departed from our midst, but her beautiful, Christ-like spirit will linger among us. Only those who have a picture of the development of the work in this mission will be able to comprehend the loss we have suffered. She was a mother, counselor and an example to us. We mourn her loss, but in the assurance that there is One who governs all and who guides our work, our "Mamousek" has gone to her reward.

We pray the Lord to bless and comfort her two daughters, our sisters. Sweeter, cleaner young ladies I have never met. They have suffered even a greater loss than we. But their mother has gone to prepare the way for them, and to perform another mission. She will not forget them, even as we have not forgotten her. We repeat: "LORD, THY WILL BE DONE."

IS IT WORTH WHILE?

ELDER W. MAURICE TINGEY, BRISTOL DISTRICT

APPROXIMATELY twenty months ago I received a letter from President Heber J. Grant, stating that I had been called on a mission to Great Britain. Who was Heber J. Grant? Of course I knew he was president of the Church, but was he actually a prophet of God? For some reason I felt he was, and that my calling had a divine origin. I had faith that time and experience would give an absolute assurance. Faith also, that these same age-proven factors would verify to my personal satisfaction the vital truthfulness of the religion commonly known to the world as "Mormonism." Of course time and experience had proven its truthfulness numberless times before, yet because of my youth

and inexperience I scarcely realized what my forefathers had really endured for the sake of Christ. One has to taste the bitterness of the world's cup of envy and hate, to really appreciate and understand the sweetness of the Gospel's saving principles.

Thanks to the faith that was instilled into me by my wonderful parents. I left my home and friends and came into the mission field. Through prayer, study, work, humility, the encouragement of companions and friends, and blessings from the Lord, I gained the spirit of mission work. Tracting, street-meetings, and other mission activities, together with the association of the finest fraternity of men that ever existed—men clothed with power from God—have all been instrumental in assisting me to obtain a testimony that has taken possession of my very being, settling deep into my heart and filling every fibre of my soul.

An affirmative answer has now been gained to all my questions. Was I called of God? Yes, just as all servants of the Lord have ever been called. Was President Heber J. Grant a prophet of God? Yes, also a Seer and a Revelator as were all who have been called to fill the office of president prior to him. Is this mission worthwhile? Surely, it is priceless! In the testimony that I have gained of the divine mission of my Redeemer, comes also the knowledge that there is no beginning and no end to time, as compared with the endless chain of eternity; two years do not even form a link.

But they do help to make a stronger link with purer qualities. "No chain is stronger than its weakest link." Instead of just devoting my missionary time to Christ, I am aware now, that I have got to devote my whole life. Salvation, according to "Mormonism," is the work of a lifetime.

Dr. Carver, of Harvard, one of the leading thinkers of the world, once said to a congregation: "I have studied the philosophies of the world, both ancient and modern, but the greatest of all philosophies is that of 'Mormonism'." The Gospel is the greatest of all philosophies, because it trains men and women in the important business of sowing seeds that will harvest a clear and settled faith in God, in His power, in His purposes, and the knowledge that He rules this universe in the interests of His children and their salvation.

With a careful, sincere and prayerful study of the humble and obscure circumstances surrounding the organization of the Church and following its history through strife, poverty, persecution and distress, it cannot be denied that a great and marvelous work has come forth to the nations of the world. The prophecies and purposes of the Lord are being literally fulfilled.

The simple virtues of honesty, purity and industry, will ever be weather-proof to the storms of persecution. "Mormonism" goes steadily onward.

ANSWER TO A PRAYER

SISTER FLORENCE BURGESS, LONDON DISTRICT

BEHOLD the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they. (Matt. 6: 26.)

Tuesday, and just four pennies to buy food for my husband and our two children. To our knowledge we knew of no source from whence we could secure any remuneration until the following Thursday. For myself it would not have mattered, mothers before have sacrificed, so can mothers now, so will mothers always, but to see our dear ones suffer with hunger, is something to be dreaded. Never before had we been so hungry, although my husband had been out of employment for over eighteen months.

It was a terribly dark, windy day, and we had the gas-light burning early. A sudden gush of wind shook the house and the light went out, because the mantel broke. My husband and I looked at each other, both thinking of those last four pennies. Children will not sit in darkness, there was nothing to do but buy a new mantel. Directly after my husband had gone to town to secure the mantel, I thought of my Heavenly Father. This thought struck me so forcibly that I hesitated no longer, but knelt and asked God to give us our daily bread.

That evening it was Relief Society meeting and I could have had money for the asking, but I remained silent and even enjoyed the meeting better than usual because I knew within myself that my prayer had been heard and that it would be answered. I pride myself now that nobody knew how I was placed that night.

Arriving home, I found a letter waiting from an aunt, to whom my husband had written about some genealogy. I commenced reading, but stopped when my eyes rested upon the words, "I have enclosed five shillings, and will send more later." I could read no more, my heart was too full of gratitude, my prayer had been answered.

Ask and ye shall receive, knock and it shall be opened unto you.

TRY THIS—IT WORKS. Do you ever think of God as being a person? That He is to all of us "the other fellow?" That He has feelings, that He likes decent treatment? That He can feel slighted, just as we would feel slighted if we were not treated right? And that while He gives us commands to teach us how to live with our fellow mortals, that those same laws might teach us how to treat God? And when He teaches us to do unto others as we would have others do unto us, He also teaches that He would like us to do unto Him as we expect Him to do unto us? Try the Golden Rule out on your Church work as respecting God.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1932

EDITORIAL

TWO PISTOL SHOTS

Two pistol shots, suicides, set the world to thinking, two weeks ago. One took the life of Ivar Kreuger, match king of the world; the other of George Eastman, founder of the Kodak company. Kreuger was fifty-two, Eastman seventy-seven years of age.

Both of these men were famous financiers; both were incredibly wealthy; both enjoyed the confidence and respect of the whole world. Both were kind and charitable, and gave away millions of their vast fortunes. Both were in reasonably good health, loved life's pleasures and could command its comforts and luxuries.

Wealth, power and fame, did not seem to them enough to make life worth the living. Kreuger thought that his concerns would be better off without him; Eastman left a note saying that his work was done, "why wait?" Such lame excuses merely emphasized that in their lives was some unsatisfied want, one which their millions could not purchase. They were not happy.

It is not difficult to diagnose the condition of these two unfortunates. Great in achievement, they walked in ignorance of the meaning of life; possessed of power, they trembled before an unknown destiny; enveloped by fame, they saw only its futility, instead of its eternal use. They possessed no plan or pattern into which all life's experiences might be fitted. Life seemed a transient episode. It is a pitiful picture.

These suicides reflect the temper of millions of people, high and humble, who do not fathom the meaning and purpose of existence, and to whom, therefore, life's efforts seem fruitless. Indifference, fear, despair, stalk in the twilight of vague knowledge. The courageous ones fight it out, in contempt of an apparently disordered, pointless existence. The weaker ones, and the strong under emotional strain, run away from life as did these two men. Humanity cries for light to justify living. It is the world's great need, the ultimate cure of earth's many illnesses.

Had these men known their preexistent, divine origin, and the eternal relationship of the human family; had they understood their primeval acceptance of life on earth as a part of a plan of unending progression; had they visioned the meaning of free agency, by which man has moved and moves throughout the ages, and by which in the end he shall be judged—had this higher

knowledge been theirs, the finger would have faltered upon the trigger; Kreuger would have bethought himself of much to do for his business ventures; and to Eastman his career would not have seemed finished. Did humanity understand these related truths, new joy and courage would come to the race.

“Out of the heart are the issues of life.” Wealth, power, fame—the gifts of the earth—are but as garments of the body. Understanding, contentment, love—gifts of the spirit—are as the breathing heart and the coursing blood. To understand the meaning of life; to be certain that there is an eternal purpose in life; to feel the enlivening flush of love that follows the vision of the brotherhood of man; to take an active part in working out God’s plan of salvation; and to be assured that the Lord is at the helm—these are the conditions of human joy. Without them, man feeds upon the husks of happiness.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ—not the hollow, echoing shell of it, but the rich, enlivening fulness of it—offers that for which the world hungers, the abundant life to which every human being is entitled. It explains the mysteries of existence, and gives strength to meet and solve the problems of life. The fulness of the Gospel is in possession of the restored Church of Jesus Christ, which yields the power to win joy in life, such power as comes only from the Lord. That way, and that way only, leads to victory.

There are few suicides among the Latter-day Saints; none among those who fully live and honour the Gospel. They may be ever so rich or ever so poor, but they love life and cherish its opportunities. The masses of uninformed men may look with doubt upon the claims of the Latter-day Saints, but investigation and trial will convince the honest seeker of their truth. The two pistol shots would not have been heard had Kreuger and Eastman understood the message restored to earth through the Prophet Joseph Smith.—W.

WHY I BECAME A “MORMON”

SISTER ANNIE HANDS, ULSTER DISTRICT

ALTHOUGH my experience has much in common with many of the accounts written by others, it might prove interesting and incidentally give a few reasons why I became a “Mormon.”

For a long time I had been dissatisfied with the conditions prevailing in other churches, frequent dissension among the members and conflicting ideas presented by the various ministers. These men, who would give different interpretations of the same scripture, led me to wonder why it was that the spirit of love and unity which existed among early Christians was not present among the people of to-day. Being anxious to find the truth, I

decided to study for myself, seeking the assistance of my Heavenly Father in my researches. Hence, I began to read the Scriptures prayerfully, and it was not long before I found myself at variance with the doctrines of the church to which I then belonged.

It was about this time that some young men who called themselves, "missionaries," knocked at my door. They were distributing free literature, containing, as they claimed, the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through this means I was introduced to the first principle of the Gospel, namely, faith. However, my mind was still unsettled in regards to religious matters. After some time I had placed in my hands some tracts, which discussed the meaning of love, and that the way to show our love to Jesus Christ is by keeping His commandments. Next I read that, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:5.) This and many similar definite statements, which curiously enough I had never noticed before, were brought to my attention. I went to a "Mormon" meeting, a little prejudiced at first, I will admit, owing to misleading and false rumours which I had heard.

I believe the one thing that impressed me above all others, was the spirit of humility manifested by the missionaries and saints, together with the straightforward talk and actions that I had looked for in vain among the members of many other churches. I read more and more of the literature given me by the missionaries, and the more I read the more convinced I became of the truthfulness of their teachings. In time I entered the fold through the door of baptism, being confirmed a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by the laying on of hands by those who had the authority to do this. I now rejoice daily in the truth which I have discovered. Though the world may tell me that I am being led astray, yet with the help of God, I trust that I shall never forsake that which is dearest to my heart—the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

RESTING ON OUR OARS

ELDER CYRIL H. LINFORD, NEWCASTLE DISTRICT

THEREFORE leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. (Heb. 6:1, 2.)

These words of Paul make it very clear to us that after we have come to a true knowledge of the Gospel and have complied with the first principles: faith, repentance, baptism and the laying on hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost, that we must go on to per-

fection, that through our diligence and faithfulness we may progress onward, with Christ as our ideal.

Many of us seem to feel that once we have found the true Gospel and have entered into the waters of baptism and obtained a remission of sins we will be worthy to enter the presence of God and dwell with Him eternally; and that no matter what we do, whether we break the commandments given during Christ's ministry or those which have been revealed in these last days, that we will be saved, merely because we have been baptized.

Could we, if shipwrecked in the middle of the ocean, be saved by merely climbing into the lifeboat and letting the oars drag? No, we must put out the sails and take up the oars or we will be lost. So it is with our salvation; we must not only become a member of the Church, but we must keep the commandments which God has given us. To those who receive a testimony of Christ and then depart from it, will come greater condemnation than to them who have never heard the Gospel.

In His Sermon on the Mount, the Master taught that whosoever should break one of the least commandments and should teach men so, he should become least in the kingdom of heaven. Christ's life was a life of charity and service, and a symbol of love and purity. He gave His life that we, through our good works, might dwell eternally with our Father in heaven.

Let all of us lay up treasures in heaven, for where our treasure is, there also will be our heart.

HEALED IN THE WATERS OF BAPTISM

EDSON DON CARLOS SMITH, a nephew of the Prophet Joseph Smith, relates the following incident which took place at the time of his recent baptism into the Church:

"I was baptized at a conference gathering of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at Tacoma, Washington, on February 13th, 1931, believing with all my heart that in so doing I was obeying the command of God, having repented of my sins to the best of my knowledge and ability, and also believing that the authority to baptize rested with this Church in its divinely called ministry.

"I happily entered the waters for baptism by immersion, believing that this mode of baptism was the true one according to the teachings of Christ and His apostles. The blessing of health of both soul and body followed.

"I had been a partial cripple in one knee ever since I was twenty-one years old, but upon coming up out of the waters of baptism at the age of sixty-seven years, I felt the healing power of God upon me so strong and complete that in returning to the dressing room I climbed a flight of stairs as supple as a boy of ten years of age. The lameness and stiffness in my knee had disappeared."

PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT CONFERENCE

VICTORY HALL in Portsmouth, was the scene of the Portsmouth District Conference held on the evening of March 6th. An interested congregation of members and friends listened to inspirational discourses delivered by Patriarch Wallis and President Douglas.

The preliminary program was marked by a vocal solo rendered by Sister Gladys Collins, and a piano solo by Sister Ruth Tomes. In his address President Douglas told of the organization of the Church, and Church scenes he had visited; while Patriarch Wallis gave a convincing discourse on the divinity of the Book of Mormon.

Among the notable items in the District President John W. Taylor's historical report for the last six months were the following: 1 new branch organized, 8 baptisms, 644 books and pamphlets distributed, 1,008 hours tracting, 1,631 gospel conversations and 14 Book of Mormon circulated.

Mission authorities and missionaries in attendance were: Patriarch and Sister James H. Wallis of the European Mission; President and Sister James H. Douglas of the British Mission; President John W. Taylor and Elders John Bunderson, Elden L. Bastian and George H. Curtis of the Portsmouth District; Elder Percy L. Matthews of the London District; Elder Clarence R. Ellsworth of the Welsh District.

ELDEN L. BASTIAN, Clerk of Conference.

FAITH IN GOD

FAITH in God means a conviction that God's method of living mortality is better than man's way, because He has been through it, and we have not yet had the complete experience and cannot see it in its perspective. Therefore, God is a past-master at the business of living mortal life, knows more about it than we do, who are just apprentices, and can best guide us.

That we must whole-heartedly accept God's commands as the best and quickest road on the highway of life to attain the desired result—that of living successfully.

That the wisdom of man is foolishness to God, because He knows so much more about life and living than we do. Therefore, it is wisdom on our part to accept His advice, just as the apprentice tradesman accepts the advice of his master mechanic.

God's mission is to help us to live most profitably. The logical results of faith in God is that we follow Him along the way He points out and we will find SUCCESS at the end of the trail.

CHURCH WIDE NEWS

HENRY SUTTON, 85, born in London, England, in 1846, died in Salt Lake City, March 2nd. He emigrated from England when he was 18 years old and spent much of his early life on the frontiers as an ox-team driver. He was also a pioneer sheep and cattle raiser.

ELDER STEPHEN L. RICHARDS, of the Council of the Twelve, made a stirring plea for more missionaries during a recent session of the Gunnison Stake conference, Utah. In stressing this necessity, Elder Richards called to the attention of the people the great sacrifices made by the early leaders of the Church in responding to calls for missionary service.

ELDER GEORGE F. RICHARDS, of the Council of the Twelve and president of the Salt Lake Temple, and his wife, Alice A. Robison Richards, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding, Wednesday, March 9th. Members and friends of the Church in Great Britain will remember that Elder Richards served as president of the European Mission from 1916 to 1919.

BROTHER AND SISTER CHARLES W. SYMONS celebrated their sixty-fourth wedding anniversary at their home in Salt Lake City on March 7th. Mr. Symons was born in London, England, in 1845. When nineteen years old, he sailed for America on the ship *Hudson*, and crossed the plains in Captain Warren D. Snow's ox-train, arriving in Salt Lake City in November, 1864.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Transfer: March 15th, Elder Clarence A. England was transferred from the Sheffield District to labour in the Norwich District.

Appointment and Transfer: Elder Clifford L. Ashton, recently honourably released from the British Mission, after filling a full term mission, has been appointed one of the secretaries of auxiliaries in the European Mission Office; Elder Richard G. Johnson has been transferred from the British Mission to the European Mission Office, where he is labouring as Editorial Secretary.

Appointments and Releases: February 23rd, Elder Dix W. Price was released from the office of President of the Nottingham District; transferred to London District and appointed President.

February 29th, Elder Rulon D. Newell was released from the office of President of the Sheffield District, and transferred to the British Mission Office. He was appointed Assistant Secretary on March 14th.

Releases and Departures: The following missionaries have been honourably released from their labours in the British Mission and have departed for their homes in America: Fay E. Bates, Newcastle, Leeds and Nottingham Districts; Joseph W. Marriott, Sheffield, Portsmouth and Nottingham Districts. They were released on March 6th, and sailed from Southampton aboard the *President Roosevelt*, on March 17th.

Arrivals and Assignments: The following missionaries arrived at Plymouth, March 10th, aboard the *President Harding*, to labour in the British Mission, and have been thus assigned: William R. Houston, Salt Lake City, Utah, to Ulster District; Allan N. Adams, Salt Lake City, Utah, to Sheffield District; Raphael C. Palfreyman, Springville, Utah, to Leeds District. February 2nd, Elder and Sister Hyrum Hand and their daughter Alice arrived in the British Mission, being transferred from the Netherlands Mission, and have been assigned to labour in the Sheffield District.

Branch Conferences: Of the Gravesend Branch, London District, was held on the evening of February 28th. Though the congregation was meagre, the Master's promise that His Spirit should attend such gatherings was inspiringly fulfilled. President Dix W. Price of the London District and Elder Dennis McCarthy of the British Mission Office attended.

Of the Scunthorpe Branch, Hull District, was held March 6th. "The Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ" was the theme, which was portrayed effectively in both the morning and evening sessions. President Thomas A. Lambert and Elder Leonard N. Giles were in attendance.

Of the St. Albans and Watford Branches, London District, held conjointly on March 6th. A well prepared program presented the theme, "The Triumph of Truth," in a most inspiring manner. President Dix W. Price and Elder Blayne J. Barton attended.

Of the Gateshead Branch, Newcastle District, depicted the theme, "What it means to be a 'Mormon'." Held on March 6th, it was very well attended. President Cleon H. Kerr and Elder David L. Rowley were in attendance.

Of the Gainsborough Branch, Hull District, was held Sunday, March 13th. The children were given an opportunity of taking part in explaining the theme, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked." President Thomas A. Lambert, and Elder Wendell W. Taylor and Louis W. Meadows were in attendance.

Of the South London Branch of the London District, conducted in three sessions a most inspiring Branch Conference on March 13th. The theme of the Sunday School session, "Events of Church History," was developed by the children in a delightful manner. The second session consisted of an officers' and teachers' meeting. "Prayer," was the theme presented in the evening session. Forty-three members and friends attended, including President Dix W. Price and Elder Blayne J. Barton.

Doings in the Districts: *Bristol*—Presentation of a one-act play was the feature of a successful Green and Gold Ball held in the Cheltenham Branch the evening of February 11th. Games and refreshments made the event complete.

Cirencester Branch members entertained their friends at a fancy dress ball February 23rd. Prizes were given for the best costumes. The M. I. A. presented a short sketch, after which dancing, games and recitations were enjoyed.

Norwich—Sponsored by the District Auxiliary Organizations as an

introduction to the District Conference, a social was held at the Conservative Club, Ragland Street, Lowestoft, Saturday evening, February 27th. Interesting items and games were the features of a program enjoyed by many friends and members.

Six persons were baptized by Elders Herman L. Anderson and Elmo H. Ellsworth, at a baptismal service held February 27th, in the Latter-day Saints' Chapel. They were confirmed members of the Church by Elders W. Cleon Skousen, Cyril A. Linford, Herman L. Anderson, Elmo H. Ellsworth, T. Taylor Cannon and local Elder Frank M. Coleby. Services were conducted by President Elman T. Woodfield.

Scottish—Auxiliaries of the Glasgow Branch combined to hold a dance on March 11th. Dainty refreshments were served at the interval, and many new acquaintances made.

Sheffield—A large crowd gathered at the Sheffield Chapel, Monday, February 29th, and held a farewell program in honour of President Rulon D. Newell, who has been transferred to the British Mission Office. Brief remarks from both the departing and incoming presidents, together with several clever variety numbers, featured the evening.

An especially interesting social and concert was presented Saturday, February 27th, by the combined forces of the Rawmarsh and Sheffield Branches. The many guests all expressed their appreciation of the well-prepared program.

"The Hearts of the Children Shall be Turned to Their Fathers," was the theme of an unusual and unique dancing party sponsored by the Genealogical Society of the Sheffield Branch. The program, costumes and refreshments all endeavoured to carry out the theme of the evening and take the participants back to the time of their fathers.

Welsh—Banquets in honour of departing District President Clarence H. Taylor, were held in both the Myrthyr and Pontypool Branches of the Welsh District. Musical selections and appropriate toasts contributed to the success of both functions.

Onlookers numbering over two hundred and fifty were deeply impressed by a baptismal service held in the waters of the River Taff. Nine baptisms were performed by Elders Marion J. Olsen and Clarence R. Ellsworth. At a meeting held immediately after, the new members were confirmed by President Clarence H. Taylor and Elders Evan Arthur, Marion J. Olsen, Donald K. Ipson, Clarence R. Ellsworth, Frank R. Miller, and Vern R. Butcher.

President Clarence H. Taylor was honoured at an impromptu program and social held by the Cardiff Branch in the Co-operative Hall. A large number of people were present, all of whom expressed deep regret over the departure of President Taylor. Refreshments and games completed the evening.

DEATHS

WHITE—Brother Robert White of the Glasgow Branch, Scottish District, passed away on March 8th, after a lingering attack of tuberculosis. During the twenty-six years of Brother White's life he has been an active and faithful member. President A. Ray Curtis conducted the services, and Elder David Taylor dedicated the grave.

LEE—Brother Richard Lee of the Barnsley Branch, Sheffield District, passed away on February 27th, at the age of seventy-six years. He has been a diligent worker in the Priesthood of the Church. Funeral services were held in the family home under the direction of President Robert C. Neslen. Elder Clarence A. England dedicated the grave.

PRAYER

MY life has taught me day by day
That it availeth much to pray.

I do not stop to reason out
The why and how. I do not care,
Since I know this, that when I doubt,
Life seems a blackness of despair,
The world a tomb; and when I trust,
Sweet blossoms spring up in the dust.

Since I know in the darkest hour,
If I lift up my soul in prayer,
Some sympathetic, loving Power
Sends hope and comfort to me there.
Since balm is sent to ease my pain,
What need to argue or explain?

Prayer has a sweet refining grace,
It educates the soul and heart.
It lends a luster to the face,
And by its elevating art
It gives the mind an inner sight
That brings it near the Infinite.

From our gross selves it helps us rise
To something which we yet may be,
And so I ask not to be wise,
If thus my faith is lost to me.
Faith that with angel's voice and touch,
Says "Pray, for prayer availeth much."

ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

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PUBLISHER: JAMES H. DOUGLAS, 43 TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON, W.C. 1

EDITORS: JOHN A. WIDTSON, 295 EDGE LANE, LIVERPOOL

JAMES H. WALLIS, 43 TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON, W.C. 1